

the most majestic and deliberative institutions of our Government. Why should our constituents not be allowed access to those institutions?

Look across the street any day that the Supreme Court is in session. Hundreds, sometimes thousands, of Americans amass hoping to be lucky enough to gain admittance to an argument before our Nation's highest court. Some are tourists, visiting the Nation's capital. Some are students on a school trip. All will see the impressive building that houses the Court, but most will not see the actual proceedings that occur inside.

Why should the American people be kept in the dark? Why should they be forced to rely on the news media to interpret and filter the proceedings when, if cameras were allowed, they could watch it for themselves? As Judge Robert Bork has written, "There is often great value in the public seeing the reality of the legal system or of a particular case rather than being left with unchallenged myth and media distortions. The courts are a public institution * * *". The public needs to know that our judicial system is strong, stable and trustworthy.

Another benefit of cameras is the effect that they will have on curbing judicial activism. Federal judges are appointed to interpret the laws set forth by the Constitution of the United States. Unfortunately, there seems to be a disturbing trend in the judicial system. Some judges have reached far beyond their Constitutional authority in recent years and begun to make their own laws. They seem to thrive on twisting the laws passed by Congress, and the Constitution, ignoring its plain meaning and in some cases extrapolating new doctrines. We need to hold judges accountable for their actions and decisions in our courtrooms. One of the best ways to do this is to keep the judicial system under the scrutiny of the public eye. We, all of us, as citizens and particularly as lawmakers have the absolute responsibility to ensure that the balance of powers is being respected by the third branch just as they scrutinize Congress and the executive branch.

From civil rights to religious rights to property rights, to domestic tranquillity, the decisions of our Federal courts impact our constituents, shaping their lives and their liberties. Out constituents are able to watch C-SPAN to observe how these laws are formulated; they should be able to see how they are interpreted, as well.

I would also like to address a concern of open courtroom opponents by entering into the RECORD an excerpt of a letter I recently received from Fred Goldman, father of murder victim Ron Goldman. "The courts belong to the people and the public must have the right to see the process for themselves. Sometimes the system works and sometimes it does not. In either case, the public should have the ability to see for itself. Camera opponents love to argue that the camera's presence in the criminal trial of Ron's killer was somehow to blame for his acquittal. I know this is a popular argument, so I want to state clearly and for the record that I think this is wrong. We sat in the courtroom throughout the trial and we know the camera was not to blame."

Fred Goldman has endorsed the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act and I want to thank him for his support.

It also is important to remember that H.R. 1280 does not force Federal judges to admit cameras in every Federal court case regard-

less of circumstance. Instead, this legislation grants the presiding judge the power to decide in each specific case whether he or she will allow cameras in the courtroom. This allows judges to protect those who need the privacy of a closed courtroom, such as children, victims of sexual assault, and other sensitive cases in which the identity of those involved in the trial need to remain confidential or where there is reasonable concern or disruption.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, 48 States have found that cameras work in their courtrooms. In my own State of Ohio, for example, Chief Justice Moyer has been at the forefront of pushing for camera access. In his words, " * * * our opportunities to educate the public about the nature of our work are greatly enhanced by television. Given the technological advances of video equipment and satellite communications, we now have the emergence of Court TV * * * we long ago established the principle of open courtrooms with trials in full public view. Cameras are simply the logical progression of the tradition. If we are truly sincere about our efforts and desire to make the public more aware about the work and role of our courts, cameras must be a part of the process."

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must commit itself to passing H.R. 1280 into law next session. Parts of this important legislation have already moved through Subcommittee, and I will be working hard to ensure that the bill continues to move forward, either as part of other legislation or as a stand alone bill. I continue to believe, along with many of my distinguished colleagues from both sides of the aisle, that cameras in Federal courts is key to the judicial branch being accountable and accessible to the American public.

The Sunshine in the Courtroom Act works to keep the American people informed about their Government, a government supported with their tax dollars. It is time to bring sunshine into our Federal courts. We have waited long enough.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT RESTORATION ACT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation addressing a serious issue for retired teachers and government employees across America. These public servants, after a lifetime of educating our youth and working for the taxpayers of America, find that their reward is a significant reduction in their Social Security benefits. It is time to end this penalty and give these retirees the benefits they are due.

Retirees drawing a benefit from a private pension fund do not have their Social Security benefits reduced. Why should we do this to civil servants? We should be encouraging able and intelligent people to teach our children and work for the government, not discouraging them by slashing their retirement benefits. We must bring equity to the Social Security benefits of private sector and public sector retirees.

This legislation, the Social Security Benefit Restoration Act, will bring this equity to retirement benefits. This bill will simply eliminate the public sector benefit penalty enacted in

1983 and allow all civil servants to draw full Social Security benefits.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation. For every retired government employee and retired teacher in your district experiencing reduced Social Security benefits, I urge your support for this bill.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LATINO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, INC.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the 20th anniversary of Latino Youth Development [LYD], Inc., on Friday, November 21, 1997. That evening, LYD is celebrating this milestone with a special dinner in New Haven, CN.

LYD began in 1977 as a small youth program called Puerto Rican Youth Services. Now, 20 years later, LYD is widely considered the premier organization serving Latino youth in the city of New Haven.

Latino Youth Development, Inc. plays a unique role in the New Haven community by reaching out to and serving as a support system for Latino youth and their families. LYD provides educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs to the Latino community in New Haven.

I come from a family of immigrants. I am a first generation Italian on my father's side and a second generation Italian on my mother's side. So, I have some personal experience with the challenges immigrants face in this country. The barriers of language and the prejudices of some members of the community can be discouraging to someone just trying to find a way to raise a family and make ends meet. I wholeheartedly support efforts to assist and support working families, and I find the efforts of LYD to provide educational and employment opportunities to the Latino community particularly commendable.

I would also like to personally commend the four individuals being honored at the LYD dinner: Andrea Jackson-Brooks, a longtime member and personal friend; Dennis Hart, director of the organization for 7 years; Judith Baldwin, who has been instrumental in assisting the agency in adult programming; and Alderman Jorge Perez, who represents the Hill area of New Haven where LYD is located.

I share LYD's goal of seeing Latino members of our community prosper and become productive citizens of our community, able to assist others in positive development. I congratulate LYD on its 20th anniversary and I wish its members the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

ON LIFTING THE ENCRYPTION EXPORT BAN

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue that is very important to me—lifting unfair export controls on encryption technology.